judgment passed by Railway Claims Tribunal, Delhi, *inter-alia* mad the following observation regarding issuance of tickets in excess of carrying capacity of train:—

"Railway Authorities have no business to issue tickets in excess of the carrying capacity of a train. Each and every person to whom a ticket is issued would be entitled to believe that the Railway authorities has assured him or her of a safe journey by having a berth inside a bogey of the train."

This was by way of countering the argument of the learned counsel appearing on behalf of Northern Railway in respect of overcrowding of train.

Renewal of bookstall contracts

146. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of bookstalls allotted at various stations of Indian Railways to unemployed graduates category were not being renewed; and

(b) if so, what are the detailed reasons for not renewing their bookstall contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the Bookshall Policy, 2004 is subjudice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, status-quo is being maintained in regard to renewal of all the existing Bookstall Licenses including bookstalls maintained by unemployed graduates.

Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

147. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various Projects in progress and the Projects approved but yet to take off and the Projects under consideration in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that several Projects conceived and considered long back, is yet to see the light of the day; and

(c) whether such schemes would be given priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Following railway projects failling fully/party in the State of Tamil Nadu are in progress:—

New Line

1. Karur-Salem (85 Kms)
2. Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 kms)
3. Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 kms)
4. Tindivanam-Nagari (179.20 kms)
5. Attipattu-Puttur (88.33 kms)
6. Erode-Palani (91.05 kms)
7. Chennai-Cuddalore *via* Mahabalipuram (179.28 kms)

Gauge Conversion

1. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 kms)
2. Triuchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 kms) with extension of Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaipundi *via* Tirukkuvalai (43 kms)
3. Villupuram-Katpad (161 kms)
4. Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 kms)
5. Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Coimbatore (224.88 kms)
6. Manamadurai-Virudhunagar (66.55 kms.)
7. Chinna Salem-Kallakurichi new line (16 kms) sanctioned as part of Cuddalore-Salem *via* Vridhachalam (191 kms) gauge conversion project.
8. Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli (224 kms)
9. Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 kms)

Doubling

1. Madurai-Dindigul (Incl. Ambaduturai-Kodaikannal Road) (62.05 kms)
2. Irugur-Coimbatore (17.7 kms)
3. Attipattu-Korukkupet 3rd line (18 kms)
4. Pattabiram-Tiruvallur – 4th line (15.06 kms) and Tiruvallur-Arakkonam – 3rd line (26.83 kms)
5. Chennai Beach-Korukkupet – 3rd line (4.1 kms)
6. Chennai Beach-Attipattu – 4th line (22.1 kms)
7. Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 kms)
8. Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (26.83 kms)
9. Villupuram-Dindigul with electrification (273 kms)

Metropolitan Transport Project

1. Chennai (Mass Rapid Transit System) – Extension from Vallacherry to St. Thomas Mount (5 kms)

Railway Electrification

1. Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli (178 RKM)
2. Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai (154 RKM)
3. Ernakulam-Trivandrum including Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari and Trichur-Guruvayur (429 RKM)

On some of these projects, preliminary activities like Final Location Survey, preparation of plans and estimates *etc.* has been taken up. The physical progress on these projects will be there once the estimate is sanctioned.

Following new line proposals pertaining to Tamil Nadu have been processed for necessary approvals subject to the condition that State Government shares 50% of the cost of the projects:—

(i) Thanjavur-Ariyalur (50.35 kms)

(ii) Morapur-Dharmapuri (35.9 kms)

(iii) Dindigul-Kumuli *via* Bodinayakkanur (134 kms)

(iv) Tiruvannamalai-Jolarpettai (98.08 kms)

(v) Needamanglam-Pattukottai *via* Mannargudi (54.3 kms)

(b) and (c) The ongoing projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

Rail cum Road overbridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat

148. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted the survey for the second Rail cum Road Bridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made thereof;

(c) when the survey is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government of Assam has represented for converting the proposed road bridge at Saraighat under NHDP to a rail cum road bridge; and

(e) if so, the details pre-feasibility and economy thereof and the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of rail bridge only over river Brahmaputra adjacent to existing Saraighat rail cum road bridge has been conducted. As per the survey, cost of the project has been worked out as Rs. 300.67 crore.

(d) and (e) Chief Minister, Assam had written in this regard. No survey has so far been conducted. Prima facie, it has been considered that the existing broad gauge lines *via* Saraighat bridge and *via* Jogighopa bridge alongwith gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek and Bogibeel bridge would be able to meet the traffic requiremnet.

National Projects in NER

149. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and utilized for execution of various National Projects in the NER during the last two years and the allocation made for the year 2008-09 in Railway budget as well as General Budget 2008-09 against each project; and

(b) the progress made on various components of works and target set for those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of funds allocated and actually spent on each of the National Projects in the last 2 years and the allocation made during 2008-09 are as under:—